NOTE XXXII.

ON A NEW BAT, TAPHOZOUS DOBSONI, FROM MADAGASCAR.

BY

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Taphozous Dobsoni.

After the careful examination by Dobson [1]) of the walking and suctorial organs of certain Bats, it is evident, that although there is a great difference in external form, the structure and the physiological signification are the same. The very highly developed suctorial disks of *Thyroptera tricolor* and the comparatively simple adhesive sole of the foot and thumb of *Vesperugo pachypus* present a difference of degree only and not of function.

Spix [2]) is the first who has discovered and described a Bat, *Thyroptera tricolor* from Brazil, with sucking-cups. Several years after, Gray [3]) announced the very curious *Mystacina tuberculata* of New-Zealand, with a remarkable climbing aparatus.

Meanwhile Temmink [4]) cursorily mentioned "les pieds à plante large et déprimée" of his *Vespertilio pachypus.*

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1) P. Z. S. L. 1876, p. 526, pl. LV.

2) Sim. et Vesp. Bresil. 1823, p. 61, pl. XXXVI, fig. IX. (trough inadvertency of the printer the "index" has *Thyroptera bicolor*).

3) Voyage of the „Sulphur", 1843, Mammalia, p. 23.

4) Monographies de Mammalogie, 1835-41, T. II, p. 217, pl. 54, f. 4-6.

Dobson ¹) described the clinging organs of a Bornean Bat, *Vesperugo tylopus* and of *Vesperugo nanus*, discovered by Peters on his journey in Mossambique. The same excellent observer states in a paper on *Vesperugo Blanfordi* ²) that "a broad adhesive cushion occupies the base of the inferior surface of the metacarpal bone, and extends outwards and backwards upon the base of the metacarpal of the second finger."

Finally Milne Edwards and Grandidier ³) have established a new genus *Myzopoda*, upon a remarkable Bat from Madagascar, which they described under the specific name "*aurita*". This species presents "des disques adhésifs situés au-dessous du pouce des membres antérieures et au dessous du pied des membres postérieurs."

The following species thus were hitherto known:

1. Thyroptera tricolor, Spix—Hab. Brazil, Surinam.
2. Vesperugo pachypus, Tem.—Hab. Darjiling, Tenasserim Province, Andaman-islands, Sumatra, Java, Philippine-islands.
3. Vesperugo nanus, Peters—Hab. Africa, south of the Sahara, Madagascar.
4. Vesperugo tylopus, Dobson—Hab. North-Borneo.
5. Vesperugo Blanfordi, Dobson—Hab. Tenasserim.
6. Myzopoda aurita, Milne Edw. and Grand.—Hab. Madagascar.
7. Mystacina tuberculata, Gray—Hab. New-Zealand.

Now I have the pleasure to add an eighth species that I found in a collection of Mammalia from Madagascar, sent by J. Audebert, our zealous explorer of that interesting island. Among other bats there were in that collection a fine specimen of *Vesperugo nanus* and also a single specimen of the beautiful *Myzopoda aurita*. Our species being a true *Taphozous*, I propose to name

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1) P. Z. S. L. 1875, p. 472.

2) Journ. Asiat. Soc. Bengal. 1877, p. 312.

3) Bulletin de la Soc. philom. de Paris, Séance du 22 Juin 1878.

it in honor of Dr. Dobson, the author of the *highly* important Catalogue of the Chiroptera in the collection of the British Museum.

Taphozous Dobsoni, n. sp.

First phalanx of middle finger folded (in repose) on the upper surface of the metacarpal bone. Radio-metacarpal pouch *well developed.* Gular sac *large* in the male; as we have received no female, we cannot state if she too possesses a simular organ.

Ears shorter than the head; inner margin *not* papillate. Lower lip with a distinct groove.

Wings from the ankles. Interfemoral membrane greatly developed.

Under surface of the base of the thumbs with *small fleshy pads.* There is also a *little rounded cushion* near the base of the under surface of the footsoles.

The face in front of the eyes is covered with short blackish brown hairs.

General color as in *Taphozous mauritianus:* fur above buff brown near the base, then brown with grey extremeties. Chest and abdomen pure white. Hairs *round* gular sac colored as the sides of throat which is embellished with a chestnut collar.

On the upper surface the wing-membrane as far outwards as a line drawn from the ankle and the thumb to the elbow and also the hairy antehumeral and interfemoral membranes are brown, the hairs being colored as on the back: the wing membranes for the rest white, except a brown patch inside the first phalanx of the longest finger: beneath all the hairs and membranes are white, except the brown-colored interfemoral membrane.

Lower incisors distinctly trifid.

Length of the only specimen, an adult male, preserved in alcohol.

	m. m.
Head and body	97
Tail	22
Free end of tail	12
Ear	13
Tragus	6
Forearm	62
Thumb	7
Third finger-metacarp	62
„ „ 1st phalanx	22
„ „ 2nd phalanx	23
Fourth finger-metacarp.	47
„ „ 1st phalanx	12.5
„ „ 2nd phalanx	8
Fifth finger-metacarp	36.5
„ „ 1st phalanx	12
„ „ 2nd phalanx	10
Tibia	26
Foot and claws	10
Calcaneum	17.5

Hab: Madagascar, Mahambo (J. Audebert).

This species is the largest among the other hitherto known African species of the genus Taphozous, which are provided with a distinct radio-metacarpal pouch.